

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-24. **(Cancel)**

25-26. **(Canceled)**

27. **(Cancel)**

28. **(New)** A harmless fire retardant, protein-free composition comprising:

- (a) water in an amount at least sufficient to dissolve the following
  - (b) to (e) water soluble components up to an amount to be non corrosive,
  - (b) at least one highly concentrated alkali selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and lithium hydroxide,
  - (c) at least one acidic concentrate comprising anhydrous citric acid, citric acid or acetic acid,
  - (d) tetra potassium pyrophosphate, and
  - (e) at least one alkali metal compound selected from acetate, bicarbonate and carbonate, with or without lithium, sodium and/or potassium, to substantially reduce or eliminate mould and/or fungus attack,
- wherein said composition is adjusted to a pH value between 6.5 to 7.0 by an amount of (b) and/or (c), respectively, to ensure a neutral or a slightly acidic aqueous salt solution mixture.

29. (New) The composition of claim 28, wherein the acidic concentrate is about 90% and makes up 35% to 37% by weight of said composition.

30. (New) The composition of claim 29, wherein the acidic concentrate is a blend of citric acid and acetic acid.

31. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein the highly concentrated alkali is potassium hydroxide with a concentration of greater than 80% and in an amount of 15% to 25% by weight of said composition.

32. (New) The composition of claim 31, further comprising an anhydrous dipotassium carbonate.

33. (New) The composition of claim 32, further comprising a softening agent in an amount of .5% to 1.5%.

34. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the alkali metal compound is potassium acetate.

35. (New) The composition of claim 34, comprising anhydrous dipotassium carbonate in an amount of about 6% to 10% by weight.

36. (New) The composition of claim 35, wherein said tetra potassium pyrophosphate is present in an amount of 2% to 3% by weight.